



Activity 7 – Write a rubbish poem!

Inspire your children to write a great rubbish poem!

You will need:

- Access to bins and recycling
- Paper
- Pen or pencil

- Internet access (optional)



Time required: 1-2 hrs

Suitable for KS1-2

Safety Tips:

- Remember to wash hands thoroughly after touching any waste or recycling.



Instructions:

1. Go on a waste and recycling treasure hunt around the home. Waste is often viewed as just rubbish to throw away but it can be a valuable resource, for example, old mobile phones contain precious metals like gold.
2. Where is rubbish and recycling collected and stored? What does it look like, smell like, sound like? You could even touch it if it is clean and safe to do so.
3. Ask your children to think of some words that could be used in poetry about waste, using the bins and recycling as examples. Think about describing words (adjectives), names of things (nouns), and then expanding these into expanded noun phrases, eg. the silvery bin. You could use these words to make a word cloud (use a free internet tool like <https://wordart.com/create> or <http://www.wordle.net/>).
4. Write a poem about rubbish using the words and techniques you have found together. Give them space and time to do this. Remember a poem is called a poem when the reader and writer agree it is one!
5. Share the poem via a video call, email or phone call with a friend or relative.

See more ideas for writing activities on our Zone website. Go to <http://zone.recycledevon.org/literacy>

Useful Tip:

If children are finding it difficult to write poetry use a structure like a [haiku](#) or [acrostic poem](#) to make it easier.

Using pictures or experiences can be a good way to start off writing.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ One of the oldest pieces of writing ever found is a poem – the “Epic of Gilgamesh” was written in Sumeria (present day Iraq) in about 1800BC.
- ★ The longest poem ever written is the “Mahabharata” an ancient Indian epic poem, which contains 1.8 million words.

More ideas for extension activities:-

Find out about where rubbish goes after it leaves your house. Videos on where food waste and black bin bag waste go to after doorstep collections can be found online at <http://zone.recycledevon.org/videos>. Now write a story or epic poem based on recycling or waste leaving your house and ending up as another item.

Other ideas for writing activities:-

Here are some more ideas for triggers to write some rubbish poetry:

1. You are a cat watching the refuse collectors collect the recycling from everyone’s homes. What sights and sounds would you experience if you joined them on their journey through the streets and lanes of Devon? (*Hint: the classic storybook [The Patchwork Cat](#) by Nicola Bayley has some lovely pictures and a comforting story*)
2. You are a piece of litter travelling along a river to the sea. Where do you go? (*Hint: watch the author read the poem [I Asked the River](#) by Valerie Bloom*
<https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline/poems/i-asked-river/>)



Share your poems with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging @RecycleDevon #recycledevon

Home Schooling

Children in Year 1 should listen and discuss poetry and write sentences by saying out loud what they want to write. In Year 2 children are encouraged to develop positive attitudes to writing poetry and should use and understand adjectives and expanded noun phrases in their writing.

Children in Year 5 & 6 should read and discuss a wide range of poetry and plan, draft and write a poem.

